

# What (and who) is the IPC?

## 1. Who are we?

We are a family of churches in Britain, Europe and Korea. The British Presbytery has 13 churches across England and Scotland.

Most of our churches are small to medium-sized, and most have come into existence in the last 15 years. We have an ambition (under God) to continue to grow by planting new churches. We also welcome existing churches applying to join our Presbytery.

## 2. What does 'Presbyterian' mean?

See our more detailed document 'IPC Churches: Distinctives' for more on this.

Presbyterian churches are those which are closest in belief and practice to the 'Reformed' churches of the Reformation in the sixteenth century.

The name: 'governed by elders'

But that doesn't get to the heart of it...

**a) The gospel is all about God**

And therefore we submit to the Bible alone as God's word

**b) The gospel is all about Christ**

about salvation

From the *guilt* of sin and the *power* of sin

**c) The gospel is all about the Holy Spirit**

Who brings Jesus to the Church and the Church to Jesus

Christ applies his work to his church through the Spirit.

This is the one which people notice most!

The Spirit works through 'means':

The Word of God

The Sacraments

The church is

A Spiritual family

Generation to generation!

Driven to mission

Governed by elders

### 3. What about practicalities?

Because the church is a family, we are all connected

Presbytery

Synod

Why this is good...

Presbytery is a:

Court:                      Selecting new elders

Accountability

A safety net for churches

Catalyst                      co-ordinated mission, training, growth

enCouragement              Equipping and encouraging ministers and elders